

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information provider computer program including computer executable instructions which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform:

- 5 obtaining from an information user device permission for providing information to the information user device;
- receiving permission information corresponding to the permission and to a permission level related to usability of the information to a user, the permission information being issued by the
- 10 information user device; and
- transmitting the information and the permission information received to the information user device.

2. The information provider computer program according to claim 1,

15 further causing the computer to perform offering a privilege to the user in accordance with the permission level.

3. The information provider computer program according to claim 1, further causing the computer to perform receiving user information

20 voluntarily submitted by the user, wherein the obtaining of the permission for providing the information to the information user device is realized based on the user information.

4. An information user computer program including computer executable instructions which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform:

issuing to an information provider device permission information  
5 corresponding to permission for the information provider device to provide information and to a permission level related to a usability of the information to a user; and  
permitting to receive the information transmitted based on the permission information transmitted with the information from the  
10 information provider device.

5. The information user computer program according to claim 4, further causing the computer to perform selectively using the information permitted to be received, in accordance with the permission  
15 level of the permission information.

6. The information user computer program according to claim 4, further causing the computer to perform refusing to receive the information transmitted, if only the information is transmitted by the  
20 information provider device.

7. The information user computer program according to claim 4, further causing the computer to perform refusing to receive the information transmitted, if the permission level of the permission  
25 information transmitted with the information by the information provider

device is the lowest.

8. The information user computer program according to claim 4, further causing the computer to perform:

5 updating the permission level in accordance with how much the information permitted to be received is being used by the information user; and

reissuing to the information provider device new permission information corresponding to the permission level updated.

10

9. An information provider/user system comprising an information provider device and an information user device,

the information device including

a permission application unit that applies to an

15 information user device for permission to provide information to the information user device;

a permission information receiver that receives permission information corresponding to the permission and a permission level related to a usability of the information to a user, the

20 permission information being issued by the information user device; and

a transmitter that transmits the information and the permission information received to the information user device;

the information user device including

a permission information issuing unit that issues the

25 permission information to the information provider device; and

a reception permission unit that permits the information user device to receive the information based on the permission information transmitted with the information from the information provider device.

5

10. The information provider/user system according to claim 9, wherein the information provider device further includes a privilege provider that offers a privilege to the user in accordance with the permission level.

10

11. The information provider/user system according to claim 9, wherein

the information provider device further includes a user information receiver that receives user information voluntarily submitted by the user, and

15

the permission application unit performs the application based on the user information.

20

12. The information provider/user system according to claim 9, wherein the information user device further includes a using unit that selectively uses the information permitted to be received, in accordance with the permission level of the permission information.

25

13. The information provider/user system according to claim 9, wherein the reception permission unit refuses to receive the information transmitted, if only the information is transmitted by the information provider device.

5

14. The information provider/user system according to claim 9, wherein the reception permission unit refuses to receive the information transmitted, if the permission level of the permission information transmitted with the information by the information provider device is

10 the lowest.

15. The information provider/user system according to claim 9, wherein the information user device further includes a permission level update unit that

15 updates the permission level in accordance with how much the information permitted to be received is being used by the information user and

reissues to the information provider device new permission information corresponding to the permission level updated.

20